

The Hong Kong Daily Press

No. 6381

日四月十日四年庚戌

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH, 1878.

年月五日英

香港

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

May 13, AMERICA, British str., 560, Graham, Luban 7th May, General—Bridges & Co.
May 14, SWINIAN, British gunboat, Lieut. Commander O. P. Tudor, Army 11th May.
May 14, VICTORIA, British paddle despatch-boat, Lieutenant-Commander Annesley, Army 11th May.
May 14, LARVINE, British double-screw gun-boat, Commander W. G. Scott, Army 11th May.
May 14, JEDDAH, British str., 1,642, Joseph S. Clark, Penang 4th May, and Singa-
pore 7th, General—C. G. Matheson & Co.
May 14, GRANBY, British steamer, 1,372, John Wallace, London 31st March, and Singapore 3rd May, General—JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.
May 14, JAVA, Dutch steamer, 866, Weber, Saigon 9th May, Rice—W.M. PUSTAV & Co.
May 14, QUARTA, German steamer, 731, Haye, Saigon 9th May, Rice—SOY SHING.
May 14, CHINLIANG, British steamer, 738, Or, Shanghai 10th May, General—
SEASIDE & Co.
May 14, CHI-SAI, Chinese gunboat, from Canton.
May 14, NORMA, British str., 606, Walker, Swatow 13th May, General—Kwox ACHONG.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOURMASTER'S OFFICE,
MAY 14TH.

BRITISH, British ship, for Manila.
MARIE CHARLOTTE, French bark, for Callao.
TATE, German bark, for Bangkok.
ANDREAS, German bark, for Newchwang.
GUSTAV, German bark, for Chefoo.
EMIL, British bark, for Manila.
KWANGHONG, British steamer, for East Coast.

DEPARTURES.

May 14, PR. DE LA D. Siamese bark, for Bangkok.
May 14, TSING-PO, Chinese gunboat, for Fat-tow-chow.
May 14, SINGER, French str., for Shanghai.
May 14, AFRICAN, British str., for Hawku.
May 14, AUGUSTE RICKMERS, German str., for Yokohama.
May 14, KILLARNEY, Brit. str., for Foochow.
May 14, NINPO, British str., for Shanghai.
May 14, LI-CHI, Chinese revenue sch., for a cruise.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Cleopatra, str., from London, Esq.—
From London for Hongkong—Miss Maye,
Dr. Humboldt, and Baron Von Horn, For
Shanghai—Mr. Mathan, For Yokohama—
Miss Dubrey.

Per Jeddah, str., from Penang, Esq.—

122 Chinese.

Per America, str., from Luban—
Baron Dubrey.

Per Joss, str., from Saigon—
36 Chinese.

Per Quatara, str., from Saigon—
77 Chinese.

Per Chinkiang, str., from Shanghai—
1 European, deck, and 20 Chinese.

Per Norma, str., from Swatow—
2 Europeans, deck, and 61 Chinese.

REPORTS.

The British gunboat Swinger reports left Amoy on 11th May, and had very suddenly weathered the day before arrival, accompanied with thunder and rain.

The Dutch steamship Java reports left Saigon on 7th May, and had light Southerly winds and fine weather; the day before arrival had very heavy thunder storms with rain.

The British steamship America reports left Luban on 10th May, and had fine weather and cloudy atmosphere. Passed a French mail steamship, bound North, off Mombasa.

The British steamship America reports left Luban on 10th May, and had fine weather and light N.E. winds throughout until the last twelve hours; then had S.W. monsoon winds.

The German steamship Georg reports left Saigon on 9th May, and had fine weather until the night before arrival, then met with rain and thunder. In port the steamers Copenhagen and Sea Gull.

The British steamship Glenorchy reports left London on 31st March, and Singapore on 8th May, and had fine weather up till last evening, when it set in very dirty weather blowing hard, with heavy thunder and lightning. Winds from the N.E. till the 11th, then variable, principally Southerly.

The British steamship Jeddah reports left Penang on 4th May, and had fine weather and unbroken light E. winds, except winds the first and middle parts of the passage, and moderate South and S.W. winds in the latter part with fine weather throughout. On the 7th instant, passed the steamship Penang, from Hongkong to Singapore. On the 8th, passed a P. & O. steamship, from Hongkong to Singapore.

The British steamship Chinkiang reports left Shanghai on 10th May, 4 a.m., and arrived in Hongkong on 14th May at 1:30 p.m., and experienced dense foggy weather as far as Hsien-han; thence to Lamkong, strong S.W. monsoon thence to port variable winds and rain. On the 14th, passed a French mail steamer, from Hongkong to Shanghai.

VESSELS EXPORTED AT HONGKONG.

(Corrected to Date).

Chamal Queen, Cardiff, Feb. 9.

Magnolia, Cardiff, Feb. 16.

Empress, Cardiff, Feb. 19.

Empress, London, Feb. 25.

William H. Bass, London, Feb. 26.

Highlander, New York, Mar. 1.

Prince Amadeo, Antwerp, Mar. 1.

Mabel Clark, Liverpool, Mar. 1.

Josephine, Penang, Mar. 1.

British Union, Newcastle, Mar. 1.

Empress, London, Mar. 12.

Lansdowne, Liverpool, Mar. 12.

Gitanella, Finsbury, Mar. 14.

Francis B. Fay, Newcastle, Mar. 15.

Charles L. Pearson, Newcastle, Mar. 15.

August Frederick, Newcastle, Mar. 15.

Alice D. Cooper, Penang, Mar. 16.

Antwerp, Mar. 16.

Phoenix Castle, Cardiff, Mar. 16.

Monarch, Cardiff, Mar. 16.

Imbat, London, Mar. 16.

Escar, London, Mar. 16.

Carlo, Cardiff, Mar. 16.

NOTICE.

THE INTEREST and RESPONSIBILITY of

Mr. D. MOSS in our FIRM CHASES,

from this date by mutual consent.

THOS. HOWARD & Co.

Hongkong, 5th May, 1878.

NOTICE.

W. H. ROBERT HUNTER HILL, is

proposed to be a PARTNER in our FIRM,

from 1st April, 1878.

NOTICE.

MR. JOSEPH HARMON has been ad-

mitted a PARTNER in our FIRM, from

1st of April, 1878.

NOTICE.

THOMPSON & HINDS, A.S.P.M.

Household Furnishings Co.

NOTICE.

NOTICE.</

NOW READY FOR SALE

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
For 1878.
(With which is incorporated "THE CHINA
DIRECTORY.")

This Comprehensive Work, now in the
SIXTEENTH YEAR of its existence, has been
compiled from the Best and Most RELIABLE
SOURCES, and no pains have been spared to
render it COMPLETE in every respect.

It contains—

THE DIRECTORY FOR HONGKONG.

THE DIRECTORY FOR CANTON.

THE DIRECTORY FOR WHAMPOA.

THE DIRECTORY FOR MACAO.

THE DIRECTORY FOR PAKHOI.

THE DIRECTORY FOR HOIHOW.

THE DIRECTORY FOR SWATOW.

THE DIRECTORY FOR AMOY.

THE DIRECTORY FOR FORMOSA.

THE DIRECTORY FOR FOOCHOW.

THE DIRECTORY FOR WENCHOW.

THE DIRECTORY FOR NINGPO.

THE DIRECTORY FOR SHANGHAI.

THE DIRECTORY FOR CHINKIANG.

THE DIRECTORY FOR KIUKIANG.

THE DIRECTORY FOR WUHU.

THE DIRECTORY FOR HANKOW.

THE DIRECTORY FOR CHEFOO.

THE DIRECTORY FOR TAKU.

THE DIRECTORY FOR TIENTSIN.

THE DIRECTORY FOR NEWCHIANG.

THE DIRECTORY FOR PEKING.

THE DIRECTORY FOR TOKIO.

THE DIRECTORY FOR YOKOHAMA.

THE DIRECTORY FOR NIIGATA.

THE DIRECTORY FOR NAGASAKI.

THE DIRECTORY FOR HIOGO.

THE DIRECTORY FOR HAKODATE.

THE DIRECTORY FOR PHILIPPINES.

THE DIRECTORY FOR SAIGON.

THE DIRECTORY FOR HAIPHONG.

THE DIRECTORY FOR HANOI.

THE DIRECTORY FOR BANGKOK.

THE DIRECTORY FOR SINGAPORE.

With brief descriptions of Hongkong and the
Trade Ports of China, Japan, and the Philippines.

It also includes a mass of useful information
in addition to that usually found in works of the
kind.

The large Directory contains the different
Treaties and Conventions made by China and
Japan with foreign countries, together with
various Acts, Ordinances, and Regulations re-
lating to Commerce and Shipping.

It is further embellished with a Chromo-
lithograph of a

PLAN of VICTORIA, HONGKONG.

THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF

SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-lithograph Plate of the NEW
CODE of SIGNALS in use at the
PEAK:

Also of the various **HOUSE FLAGS**

(Designed expressly for the Work):

and
MAPS of HONGKONG, JAPAN, &c.

The Directory for 1878 contains several new
features and improvements, and will be found
complete as possible.

The Chronicle and Directory is the only
publication of its kind for China and Japan,
and it will be found invaluable in all Public
Mercantile and General Offices.

It is published in two forms—Complete at
\$5; or with the Lists of Residents, Port Direc-
tories, Maps, &c., at \$3.

Orders for Copies may be sent to the Daily
Press Office, where it is published, or to the
following Agents—

MACAO—Messrs. A. de Melo & Co.,
Swatow—Messrs. Campbell & Co.

AMOY—Messrs. Wilson, Nickolls & Co.,
Ningpo—Messrs. Wilson, Nickolls & Co.

NINGPO—Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Sginal.

SHANGHAI—Messrs. Hall & Holt.

HANKOW and **RIVER PORTS**—Messrs. Hall & Holt and Kelly
& Walsh, Slough.

CHEFOO and **CHILOE**—Messrs. Hall & Holt and Kelly
& Walsh, Shanghai.

TIEN-Tsin and **TIEN-Tsin**—Messrs. Hall & Holt and Kelly
& Walsh, Shanghai.

YOKOHAMA—The C. and J. Trading Co.,
Japan Gazette Office.

SAIGON—Mr. J. H. Bloom.

SINGAPORE—Messrs. Liddell and Martin.

LODGE—Messrs. Malherbe, J. & Co.

LONDON—Mr. George Smith & Son.

NEW YORK—Messrs. Bates, Hand & Co.,
Exchange.

SAN FRANCISCO—Mr. L. P. Fisher, 21, Merchants'
37, Park Row.

NOTICE

PRINTING, OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

AT THE DAILY PRESS' OFFICE.

Particular attention is given at this Establish-
ment to COMMERCIAL and GENERAL JOBS
PAINTING, every description of which is
executed

IN THE BEST STYLE

and at

SUCH PRICES

as will bear

FAVOURABLE COMPARISON

with
ANY IN THE EAST

DAILY PRESS' OFFICE,

HONGKONG.

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT

the
COMMERCIAL JOURNAL OF CHINA, JAPAN,

&c., &c.

Published at the Office of the **Hongkong Daily**

Press on the Morning of the Departure

of the English Mail,

contains the

LATEST AND FULLEST TRADE

INTELLIGENCE

REPORTS OF MEETINGS OF

COMPANIES

THE LATEST TELEGRAMS

POLITICAL AND GENERAL NEWS

of the Foreign.

The "Trade Report" is a large circulation

in Hongkong, the Ports of China and Japan,
the Philippines, Straits Settlements, &c., &c.

Hongkong, 3d October, 1877.

NOTICE

THE Undersigned, having become LESSER
of the "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" and
the BUSINESS connected therewith will conduct
the same on his own account from this date.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX
Daily Press Office,
Hongkong, 1st January, 1878.

NOTICE

S. WATSON AND CO.,
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS,
By Appointment to His Excellency the Go-
VERNOR and His Royal Highness the
DUKE of EDINBURGH,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS
PERFUMERS,
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLYMEN,
And
AERATED WATER MAKERS,

SHIPS MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of
Orders it is particularly requested that all
business communications be addressed to the
Firm A. S. Watson and Co.,

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be
addressed to "The Editor," and those on business to
"The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name
and address with communications addressed to the
Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good
faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MAY 15TH, 1878.

We published on Monday an announcement
by *Mayfair* that it had been proposed that
the Kuldja difficulty between Russia and
China shall be settled by the relinquish-
ment of that province by Russia for another
slice of territory in Manchuria. This sug-
gestion has, it seems, emanated from Colonel
VENKROFF, a well known semi-official writer
on matters connected with China and Central
Asia. The gallant colonel proposes that the
Czar should keep his word and permit the
victorious army of General Tso Tsung-tang
to re-occupy the Matsumon province, but
under the stipulation that Russia in return
should receive as compensation a piece of
territory contiguous to her possessions on
the Amur. Kuldja, in Colonel VENKROFF's
opinion, is a barren possession, lucrative only
to the few officials entrusted with the duty
of governing it. The road to Peking, he
goes on to point out, "is not through the
uplands of craggy Kuldja but through the
vast plains of Kashgar, and it may be
safely left to the inevitable march of events
for this stepping-stone to supremacy in
China to fall into the hands of Russia."

But the necessities of the Muscovite Em-
pire on the Amur are such by this keen
soldier to be in the present crisis of affairs,
very patent and very urgent. The strip of
territory between the Amur and the Kuldja
is not a very difficult matter to conquer,
but the few officials entrusted with the duty
of governing it. The road to Peking, he
goes on to point out, "is not through the
uplands of craggy Kuldja but through the
vast plains of Kashgar, and it may be
safely left to the inevitable march of events
for this stepping-stone to supremacy in
China to fall into the hands of Russia."

It is not likely that the Czar would be
inclined to give up Kuldja, but the
victorious army of General Tso Tsung-tang
will be compelled to do so if the
Czar does not give up the Amur.

The British steamer *Fleurs Castle*, Captain
Jones, arrived at Singapore from Cardiff on
the 10th instant en route to this port.

The British steamer *Sunbeam*, Captain B. D.
Lund, was loading at the Victoria Docks,
London, on the 12th April, for this port.

The British steamer *Mirado*, Captain Barclay,
was despatched to leave London, or about the
25th ultimo, and the British steamer *Gordon*,
Captain Kidd, on the 27th ultimo, for the
China and Japan ports.

It is notified by the Colonial Secretary in the
Strait Times that fractional parts of the Japanese
yuan dollar are not legal tender in the Straits
Settlements and will not be received at the Treasury
or any of the public offices.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Gully of Lorne, which grounded at Wusong on
the 14th inst., had to discharge a thousand tons of
coal and was to be towed to the *Port of China* on
the 15th ult., and the British steamer *Portuguese*,
Captain Moore, was to be towed to the *Port of China* on
the 16th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 17th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 18th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 19th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 20th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 21st ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 22nd ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 23rd ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 24th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 25th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 26th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 27th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 28th ult.

The *Strait Times* says that the steamer
Portuguese, Captain Moore, will be towed to the
Port of China on the 29th ult.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

INSURANCES.

TUESDAY, 14th May.
At the higher rates of \$350 and \$500, noted
yesterday, sales of Patau and Banaras to-day
For Malwa the terms remain unchanged.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON Bills, undemandable, 3102.
Bank Bills, at 30 days sight, 3101.
Bank Bills, at 6 months sight, 3111.
Credits, at 6 months' sight, 3111.
Documentary Bills, at 6 months' sight, 3111.
sight, 3102.
ON BONDS—Bank sight, 3273.
ON CACUTTA—Bank, sight, 3273.
ON SHANGHAI—Bank, sight, 722.
Private 60 days sight, 722.

SHIATSU—
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—83 per
cent premium.
Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$1,325 per
share.
China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—
\$1,300 per share.
Yangtze River Insurance Association—Tls. 685 per
share.
Chinese Insurance Company—\$270 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—
\$700 per share.
China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$150
per share.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's
Shares—7 per cent premium.
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.'s
Shares—\$25 per share.
Shanghai Steam Navigation Company—Tls. 21
per share.
Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$75 per
share.
Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$55 per
share.
China Soda Refining Company, Limited—7 per
cent premium.
Chinese Imperial Loan—\$105.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1877—\$105 15s.

SALES ON MAY 14TH, AS REPORTED BY
CHINESE.
Red Molen Ships—4 tons, at \$31.10, by Kwong
Hang Tai to local trader.
Black Dates—20 bags, at \$4.42, by Kwong
Hang Tai to local trader.
White Dates—10 bags, at \$3.00, by Kwong
Hang Tai to local trader.
Fenru—30 bags, at \$39.50, by Kwong Wing
Shing to travelling trader.
White Sugar—20 bags, at \$7.50, by Kwong
Wing Shing to local trader.
White Pepper—50 bags, at \$13.40, by Hop
Hoip Hing to travelling trader.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

From Messrs. PADDON & Co., Registered
May 14th.
Barometer—2 a.m. 30.100.
Barometer—4 p.m. 30.082.
Barometer—1 p.m. 30.050.
Barometer—1 p.m. 76.
Dew-point—1 p.m. 76.
Dew-point—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 76.
Dew-point—1 p.m. (Wet bulb) 77.
Dew-point—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 75.
Dew-point—Minimum 70.
Barometer—Minimum over night 70.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL
REGISTER.

YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAMS.
May 14th.

HONG KONG AMER. SHANGHAI NAR.
THERMOMETER. 30.0 31.1 29.8 30.0 31.2 30.0
Barometer—2 a.m. 30.100.
Barometer—4 p.m. 30.082.
Barometer—1 p.m. 30.050.
Barometer—1 p.m. 76.
Dew-point—1 p.m. 76.
Dew-point—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 76.
Dew-point—1 p.m. (Wet bulb) 77.
Dew-point—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 75.
Dew-point—Minimum 70.

NOTICE
THERMOMETER.

NOTICE
T

EXTRACTS.

THE SECRET OF SAFETY.
You ask me to describe the soil.
By which I sleep unhampered slumbers;
Still fancy free the sooty toll?
The secret is, fair Isobol,
That "safely lies in numbers."

It is not that my heart is tough,
I dare not make such false confession,
Or that it's made of such soft stuff—
It is not durable enough
To take a firm impression.

But Beauty's like the bloom that flies—
And Love's butterfly that hasten—

From lip to lip the trifles flies,
And sweet by sweet the gardo tires,
But each one only lasteth.

If I looked long in your beauteous—
I might sleep unhampered slumbers—

At least, 'twere rash to try, you know—

So now I'm going to the Bow,

Whose "Safety lies in numbers."

—Poems Readable. By H. Chaldecote. Poems

IMPARTIALITY AND ITS REWARD.
There is one very curious story in an old law book of the 8th year of King Henry VI. An action had been brought against the Chancellor of the University of Oxford for treasurier of the University of Oxford for the sum of £1000, and he should himself be judge in the matter. Of course the claim was resisted, and when the case came on for argument Serjeant Rolfe, on behalf of the Chancellor, related

the following story. "I will tell you," said he, "a story. Once upon a time there was a Pope who had been guilty of a great crime, and the Cardinals came to him and said, 'You have sinned.' He replied, 'Do you then judge me?' But they answered and said, 'We cannot do so, forasmuch as you are the Head of the Church: do you judge yourself?' Then the Pope made answer and said, 'I adjudge myself to be burnt,' and burn he was. Nevertheless afterwards he was made a saint. From this it is clear that it is not desirable that a man should be judge in his own cause."

WIFE-BEATING IN ALGIERS.

An Arab chieftain had occasion to travel to Constantinople on business, and made an affectionate farewell to his wife. In a few days he returned in a state of great rage, and, calling his favourite wife from the tent, bade her fetch his four hosts and a cord. To the woman he swore, and began savagely beating her. Her cries attracted a crowd of villagers. "What has she done?" asked one. "She is the best of wives and mothers, the pearl of the tribe," exclaimed another. At length the infatuated man stopped to explain that at Constantinople he had seen an Arab woman beating her husband before the court of ill-use; and the Cadi, healed by the French authorities, had actually given a judgment in favour. "All is not insulted through this woman!" exclaimed the chieftain; "and I am but reliving my mind, and assuring myself that I, at least, am master in my own family." *Walls of Algiers and its Surroundings.* By L. G. Scouler.

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ENGLISH.

The history of the English language has

been peculiarly unfavourable to uniformity in writing its sounds. Most principles were laid down among Anglo-Saxon writers; and Norman clerks, importing Norman words, caused a confusion, which was increased by Latin and Greek superimposed. In modern days Dr. Samuel Johnson's dictionary, which more than any other has for the present fixed our spelling, followed no intelligent principles. In different shire the pronunciation differed and differs. Between North and South England there is sensible variety, and much greater between England and Ireland. The vastness of our literature and its diffusion in foreign countries complicates the problem of converting two languages—that which is spoken and that which is written—into a harmonious pair. A sudden jump which should break continuity of development would present to the foreigner and to the child two written languages instead of one, and would presently aggravate the difficulty for any but a very superficial knowledge. No fact is more obvious than that our spoken language, as perhaps that of all nations, varies with time as well as place. One function of literature is to arrest this change, as far as may be; to regulate the admission of new words, and to forbid novelties of pronunciation, especially all that promote confusion. Small indeed is the shifting in orthography, compared to the innovations of utterance, especially in a country which has many provincial dialects and no public schools in which uniformity of pronunciation is cultivated. Such exactly is our case. We barely yesterday attained any general system of national teaching, and in it we have not even begun to make education a substantive object of culture. Precisely because the pronunciation has changed while the orthography is nearly fixed a far greater hazard has arisen between the written and the spoken language than exists between two currencies. Yet, as if blind to this fact, people are vehemently urging us to take that which is ever shifting as our standard, and remodel into conformity with it that which is comparatively stable. Nor is this the only extravagance of the proposal. It also advocates seen blind also to the fact that the written medium of thought is at once more distinctive and far more copious than the spoken tongue; and they are proposing to degrade the nobler instrument into the weakness of the less noble. It is something to hear a learned man gravely reason that we seldom make any serious mistake in listening to a speech, as to whether a *soul*, a *soil*, is intended, or in what sense *soul* is used; therefore, there will be no harm in adopting a single mode of writing the four words *soul*, *rite*, *soil*, *right*. Undeniably it is a defect that such ambiguity exists as the pronouncing *soul* and *soul* alike; but because we have this defect in one instance we are therefore to introduce it, knowingly and voluntarily, in other instances, and to confound four more words because we have, we are only too glad to drop the *soul* side out of the language and use it as a standard for it, and drop this use of *soul* in the sense of *soil*, only. No doubt the *soil* and *tear* of time do thus cast out words which are unconformably ambiguous; and modern Greek interestingly shows how the imminent degradation of a national language has forcibly ejected or remodeled numbers of classical words; but it is rather deplorable to suggest extinctions of words in the literature where there is no ambiguity, merely because a corrupt punctuation has introduced ambiguity. Surely, if we are to change, the more natural way is to adopt the Irish pronunciation of *soul* (now which is very probably the correct one) and certainly the more convenient one. And this points to the thought, which will presently be enlarged on, that the Irish in some important respects have evidently attained a purer and better pronunciation than that of London and southern England, may, in other respects, better than that of all England. Hence, instead of ridiculing all their peculiarities as bogies, some of them (if we are wise) will either be imitated and qualified, or else bring our language nearer to the distinctiveness. —*From the Contemporary Review.*

SOME IRISH ISLANDERS.
The western coast of Ireland are several islands, the inhabitants of which, previous to the present generation, never quitted, never kindly ordered to be put out for my inspection. The place which is now the only one of the kind in existence is about eleven feet long by five broad, and is composed of the purest yellow, or rather golden, feathers which, in the sunlight, are perfectly gorgeous, as they have a peculiar kind of metallic lustre, quite independent of their brilliant colour. —*From a Voyage in the Sunbeam.*
By Mrs. Brussey.

A NEW EXPLOSIVE.
M. Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, has recently discovered a new explosive substance still more powerful than that. He has given it the name of "explosive gelatine," on account of its aspect, which closely resembles gelatine. The substance is composed of 39 per cent of nitro-glycerine, and 6 per cent of colloid, mixed together. It is very viscous, but can be easily cut with a knife or with scissors, and placed in cartridges or shells: dynamite, it is known, has the disadvantage of being alterable by water, when it is mixed with the nitro-glycerine separated from the benzine. The new substance, on the contrary, does not give the least symptom of oxidation; it is impermeable to water, which does not affect it at all. It exhibits its explosive properties. It is inferior in the same way as dynamite, and its power is at least 50 per cent greater. Several nations—notably Italy and Russia—have it, and it appears already adopted this substance for charging bombs, torpedoes, and mines. —*English Mechanic.*

I believe a police barracks, as well as a coast-guard station, has been placed there; but the "king" is, after all, the authority most deserved to. Strange to say, the present potentate of Tory is a Protestant, and the only professor of that creed (four sides the police, barracks, and the coast-guard) in the island. Technically, or theoretically, Tory belonged to some barony on the neighbouring mainland; but until a couple of years ago no one dreamed of ascertaining this legal fact by calling on the government to pay bounties to the makers of roads in the country on the other side of "the sound." They made their own roads, they used none other; and for none other would they pay. So spoke the "king," and the less collector proceeded to gather a fortalice for an invasion, with purpose, as he said, as that of Norman William assembling his gallies in the roadstead of St. Valery. Happily the authorities, anxious to avoid a conflict with a community so peculiar and so largely recommended to kindly sympathies, devised some compromise which diverted hostilities. Serious strife was, and is believed to be, almost unknown amongst these islanders. In Tory the first illegitimate birth within the memory of the oldest inhabitant occurred about twenty years ago, and caused much consternation and dismay. A Tory girl had been to farm service on the mainland, and returned home to import the first mortal stain of such a nature over affixed to her. The whole community met, under the presidency of the "king," and with one voice decreed banishment to Ireland for the hapless offender. When strong enough to bear removal, she and the infant were rowed across the sound. The neighbours gave her gifts and presents to help her in the future; but she was to return to Tory no more. The present Bishop of Kerry, the making a visitation of his diocese, he was keeping his promise, and accosting his horse to polite society. He was incurable. He jumped, anything and every thing. At a cross road he once went over a peasant's wagon. He crossed the Dambas on the floss when the ice was breaking up, golloped up and down the Prates backwards in his saddle, and rallied all the feats performed in the great circuses. In 1848 he was treated to a *charivari* by the enraged populace, on account of his connection with Prince Metternich; but stepping out on the balcony with a dog-whistle and two servants, each with a sack full of culls, he quite outwhistled and out-musived his antagonists. Then, going downstairs amongst them, he seized a stone, and, throwing it at one of his windows, invited the crowd to smash the rest. Taken attack at this course, they refused. Thereupon Sander cried, "Well, then, let us go to my father-in-law's, and smash his." This proposal was carried by acclamation, and the Prince's windows were duly smashed. But by this time Sander had got the crowd so under his control that no further damage was done, and what might have been an out-and-out riot was changed into a convivial meeting. One day a remarkable transformation took place. He became as nervous and timid as he had been reckless and daring. He never mounted a horse again, refused to take the reins when he went out driving, and always warned his daughter to be cautious. This change, I was told by one of his most intimate friends, was due to a dream. The dream was to the effect that the Devil suddenly appeared with a number of mirrors, which he held one by one before the Count, and in which Sander saw the danger he had run in each of his exploits. Mirror after mirror was held before him till the sweat poured from his brow, and the last glass was reached. But instead of showing him this one, the Devil put it back with a leer, and said, "This is the last one; this has yet to come." At this moment the Count awoke, and vowed he would never mount a horse again. And he did not. —*Mystair.*

SOUTH AFRICAN TRADERS.
While halting here I was thrown a great deal among the traders, and whatever that class may be in other parts of Africa, I can say for one and all of them at Soshong that I considered they honoured me by their society. One story I heard in Soshong, at the time and even now I think so ludicrous, that I will relate. Geordie—a well-known character in Soshong—a Highlander by birth, with a most unquestionable love for ardent spirits; not that this is peculiar in itself, for I have known a few Scotchmen who loved whiskey, and when whiskey was not forthcoming, who condescended to drink brandy, even rum, and at a pinch, would not hesitate to have a muttonkin of gin. Now Geordie had travelled, and his ideas in consequence became enlarged; so that when you find yourself in the midst of a square formed by a great crowd of ladies, who you fancy are all gazing at you, the one stranger present, and he was glad when fresh people arrived, and his Majesty's attention was claimed elsewhere. Queen Kipiplani is a nice-looking woman, with a very pleasing expression of countenance. She is the grand-daughter of the heroic Princess Kipiplani, who, when the worship and fear of the goddess Pele were at their height, walked boldly up to the altar of Kilane, in defiance of the warnings and threats of the high-priestess of the idolatrous rites, proclaiming her confidence in the power of her God, the God of the Christians, to preserve her. This act did much to assist in the establishment of Christianity in the Island of Hawaii, and to make the belief of the native worshippers of Pele in the power of the fearful goddess. The Princess showed me round the room which contains the portraits of the kings and queens of the Sandwich Islands for many generations, the early ones attired in their feather capes, the later ones dressed in European costumes. Most of them were the works of native artists, but the portraits of Kamameha II. and his queen were painted, during their visit to England, by a good artist. Their Majesties are depicted in the height of the magnificence of the day, the King wearing a blue coat and broad buttons, with many orders on his breast, the Queen having on a very short-waited, tight-fitting, white satin dress, a turban surmounted by a tremendous plume of white feathers, and a pearl necklace and bracelets; rather a bony costume for a handsome woman with a dark complexion, and portly figure. They both had been a sailor. His birthplace was Salem, Mass., and he desired to be considered a proficient on all subjects connected with astronomy, navigation, &c. The great light of the scientific world informed me one day that he had "shot the sun," a common expression among navigators, which means, that they have taken an observation. I asked him "How did you do it?" "With a sextant of course." "But don't you think a chronometer, under such circumstances, would be better?" asked I. "Yes, but what could we do?" We had none of the late inventions of science. "Of course, this was a very hard case." "But why did you not use your barometer?" "I thought of that, but feared the people would not understand it, so did not propose it." Mr. Clark, our Nantucket sailor, thus figured as an authority again. The collection like wise included excellent portraits of Louis Philippe and Napoleon III. Curiously enough, each of these was sent off from France to the South with Islands by way of Cape Horn, while the original was in the pencil of his power, and fame and each reached its destination after the original had been disposed and had fled to England for refuge. But the most interesting portrait was that of Louis Philippe, the Great Third Lord. By Captain Parker Gilmore.

THE DAILY PRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH, 1878.

THE DAILY PRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY